

PROVIDER Bulletin



KERN HEALTH SYSTEMS

May 18, 2022

Re: APL 22-005 No Wrong Door for Mental Health Services & APL 22-006 Non-Specialty Mental Health Services

Dear Provider,

The DHCS released All Plan Letter (APL) 22-005, *No Wrong Door for Mental Health Services Policy* and APL 22-006, *Non-Specialty Mental Health Services*. The APLs ensure members are able to maintain treatment relationships with providers without interruption and to receive timely mental health services without delay, regardless of the delivery system where the member seeks services.

Kern Health Systems (KHS) is responsible for providing or arranging mild to moderate behavioral health or functional impairment Non-Specialty Mental Health Services (NSMHS) for members of all ages, even if the member has not yet been diagnosed including:

- Mental health evaluation and treatment, including individual, group and family psychotherapy
- Psychological and neuropsychological testing, when clinically indicated to evaluate a mental health condition
- Outpatient services for purposes of monitoring drug therapy
- Psychiatric consultation
- Outpatient laboratory, drugs, supplies and supplements (not covered by Medi-Cal RX)

These services do not require prior authorization and will be covered by KHS even when:

- Services are provided prior to determination of a diagnosis, during the assessment period, or prior to a determination of whether NSMHS or SMHS access criteria are met;
- Services are not included in an individual treatment plan;
- The member has a co-occurring mental health condition and substance use disorder (SUD); or,
- NSMHS and SMHS services are provided concurrently if those services are coordinated and not duplicated.

For additional information, please visit:

<https://www.dhcs.ca.gov/formsandpubs/Documents/MMCDAPLsandPolicyLetters/APL2022/APL22-005.pdf>

<https://www.dhcs.ca.gov/formsandpubs/Documents/MMCDAPLsandPolicyLetters/APL2022/APL22-006.pdf>

KHS posts all bulletins on the KHS website, www.kernfamilyhealthcare.com, choose Provider, then Bulletins.

For any questions, please contact your Provider Relations Representative at 1-800-391-2000.

Sincerely,

Melissa McGuire

Provider Relations Manager

Kern Health Systems